



"FIRE AT WILL!"

Shots that hit the mark

THE EDITORS WRITE:

Dear Readers:

Here's something important to remember in March — important enough to deserve extra-big type:

SUPPORT THE RED CROSS DRIVE!

Cordially yours, THE EDITORS

THE READERS WRITE:

Dear Editors:

I have just finished your third issue of GUNS AGAINST GANGSTERS. It

I think "Toni Gayle" is the best story in your book. And I like her father, Gregory Gayle. His adventures are al-

ways exciting.
"True Lives of Crime" is terrible. I taink it should be taken out, and in its place, Toni and Greg should work on

case together. I am starting to buy all the Curtis-Distributed books. I always thought that rour company should publish a thick wenty-five cent magazine with "Dick Cole," "Gary Stark," and "Young King Cole" stories in it.

A faithful fan, Bob Wells Chicago, Illinois

Dear Editors:

I have just read your third issue. I like "Toni Gayle" very much. But you should have at least about three more vories. I like the colors of the pages ery much because they are exciting. And I also like "Crime Run-Down." It

is very exciting figuring out who the criminal is.

A friend of yours, Nina Scardino Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Sirs

I think that "The Gunmaster" is the best story in your book because he is a fast-working criminologist who thinks and shoots straight. I also like Captain Glümm and the Gunmaster in "Crime Run-Down."

I would also like to read of a few different kinds of rifles on your Gun Page.

Your faithful reader, Herbert Queller New York, New York

Dear Editors:

"Toni Gayle" makes a hit with me, and I think her stories are the best in the book. Please continue printing them.

It goes to show (especially the boys), girls aren't as weak as they look.

A very faithful reader, Ann Travis Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania Dear Editors:

I have just read a book about "Toni Gayle." I think it's wonderful. I like it because it shows that a girl detective is as good as a man. So please keep printing the wonderful GUNS AGAINST GANGSTERS.

A faithful reader, Doris Ann Wells Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Editors:

I like your new comic GUNS AGAINST GANGSTERS because it contains two starring characters in one book. The characters of whom I speak are, namely, Toni Gayle and Gregory Gayle, her father.

I hope my letter encourages you to keep up the good work.

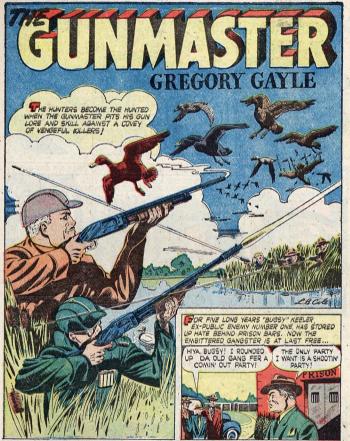
A sincere reader, Casimir J. Balinski Brooklyn 11, New York

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Robert D. Wheeler, Editor and General Manager

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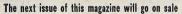














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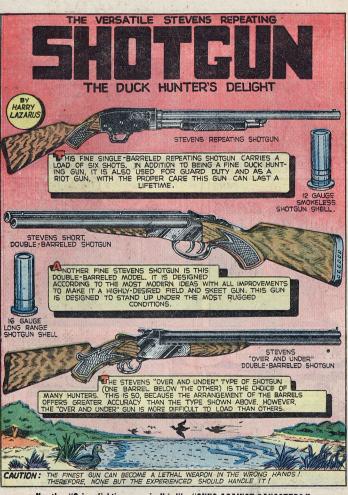














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I THINK YOU WILL, ANNIE





REALIZING ANNIE WAS THE GREATER STAR, BUTLER QUIT THE ACT AND BECAME HER MANAGER. WITH A CIRCUS...NEW ORLEANS ...1884...



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WHY NOT?

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FOR A LONG TIME IT SEEMED ANNIE'S CAREER WAS OVER ...



ALTHOUGH PARTIALLY PARALYZED. ANNIE RECOVERED SUFFICIENTLY TO RESUME HER CAREER, AND ESTABLISHED NEW RECORDS

HERSELF CHILDLESS, ANNIE RAISED AND EDUCATED 18 ORPHANS ...



ANNIE OAKLEY ROSE FROM POVERTY TO BECOME A GREAT STAR. MODEST DESPITE HER FAME, SHE DEDICATED HER LIFE TO MAKING OTHERS HAPPY.





PRIVATE Detective Greg Mason might never have seen a midget auto race if Mr. Welkins, whose entry in the race was the favorite, had not solicited his services. Welkins had received several threats, presumably from gamblers, warning him to withdraw his entry and as a result had called in Greg as bodyguard for himself and his daughter, Grace.

The cars had just completed their trial spins and were lined up before their respective dugouts for last minute instructions. The Welkins car, a vivid splash of crimson, had an enormous "5" on its cowl. Welkins addressed Jim Braden, the driver.

"Try and stay clear of Red Evans, Jim," he said. "That fellow is bad medicine and may try something." Jim Braden's smile faded.

"I'll take care of Evans if he pulls any of his tricks," he said in a steely voice. Grace Welkins lessened the tension in the alr by tying a rabbit's foot to the dashboard of the racing car. Everyone smiled.

"Now, Jim," she said softly, "please don't make any trouble. When you need luck, just eall on our rabbit's foot." Jim reached forward and fingered the charm piece fondly. It had been with him in every race he had ever driven. Suddenly Braden whitled towards Crane, his mechanic, who was fumbling with the gas tank eap.

"I thought I told you that the tanks were

filled," he said testily. The mechanic reddened and went off muttering. Just then a voice on the loudspeaker requested the drivers to take their places at the starting post and the Welkins party made its way back to the dugout.

The race was a hotly-contested one. From his close vantage point, Greg could see the tense, strained expressions on the faces of the drivers. Red Evans, who was piloting car #3, had a perpetual snarl on his lips. He was a twisting, turning, driving fool, and in his incredible disregard for his own safety, he was equalled only by Jim Braden. The latter, lips set in a hard, thin line, ate up mileage selent-lessly. Instinctively, the fans knew that the field had narrowed down to these two old, bitter enemies.

At the halfway mark, the cars paused to refuel. Crane, the mechanic, scurried about busily as Braden got out to stretch his legs. It was shortly after the cars got under way once more that disaster struck. As the leading cars swept into the curve near the grandstand, Greg could see Jim Braden hunch forward in his seat. Suddenly his car and that of Red Evans drew dangerously close. For a second Evans's arm shot out, but it was quickly withdrawn. He barely managed to come out of the surve. Jim Braden was not so lucky. His machine broke through the guard real, did a series of sickening somersaults and, with a

rending erash came to rest against the wall of the grandstand!

Greg was on his feet and up the steps of the enclosure before the stunned crowd had recovered enough to give a long, low moan. He reached the scene just a few seconds after the ambulance. One look at the doctor's upturned face and Greg knew that Jim Braden was dead!

The body, stretched out grotesquely, was pinned between the car and the grandstand. The back of Braden's skull was badly crushed. Slowly, Greg became aware of an incoherent, angry murmur coming from the stands. It grew more and more insistent. Greg "listened closely and finally made it out—"EVANS." The crowd had seen Evans's hand diash out just before the crash. Ten thousand angry witnesses were accusing Red Evans of murdering Jim Braden!

The rest of the race was run in an almost dismal silence. Red Evans won, of course, Still examining the body, Greg saw the police taking Evans into custody. As Greg and the doctor lifted Braden's body from the wreckage, the detective noticed that the dead man's right hand was discolored and swollen. Then he recalled how Braden had hunched forward before taking that last fatal turn. So that was it! Poison! However, a careful search of the racing car interior revealed nothing. Greg was reaching absently for the rabbit's foot which Grace Welkins had tied there, when he stopped short, arm outstretched. His keen eye had detected a pinpoint protruding from the luck charm. Careful examination showed that it was tipped with venom! Gingerly Greg removed the rabbit's foot from the dashboard and slipped it into his pocket. Then he returned to the dugout.

Police Chief Murphy and his squad were already there. Grace Welkins was sobbing softly on her father's shoulder. Crane, the mechanic, was wiping his hands with a piece of cloth.

"These are just routine questions," Murphy was saying. "It's pretty clear that Evans is guilty of manslaughter."

"Sorry, Chief, but I disagree," interrupted Greg. Everybody turned quizzically to the detective.

"Jim Braden was poisoned," Greg resumed.
"When Red Evans put his arm out, Braden
was already dead. Red saw that the cars were
careening dangerously close and his gesture
was instinctive enough." Everyone looked
startled.

"This apparently harmless rabbit's foot was the murder instrument," Greg continued. "A pin, dipped in venom, is protruding from it. Just before the fatal turn, as you will recall, Jim Braden leaned forward. He did this to finger his luck charm,—a move which cost him his life." All attention was fostered on Grace Welkins.

"But that isn't the charm I put there," she blurted out. "I can tell the difference by the color."

"You're right, Miss Welkins," spoke Greg, "And besides we all saw Jim handle the charm that you pinned there. He would have died at the start of the race if your sabbit's foot had been poisoned.

"No, only one person could have been the murderer. You'll remember that Jim Braden died right after he left the halfway mark. The only person who went near his car at this time was his mechanic. Crane must have been working with the gamblers who wanted Braden out of the way. He switched the rabbit's foot when he refueled the car, sure that when Braden crashed, his death would be considered accidental."

With a snarl Crane sprang toward Greg, but the ugly snout of the large pistol that Greg shoved in his face made him stop and seconsides.







CAN YOU GUESS WHY DETECTIVE GAYLE SUSPECTS THE MAID? TURN PAGE UPSIDE DOWN FOR THE SOLUTION:

WAKE IT LOOK LIKE SUICIDE.

HE CAUGHT HER STEADING, AND THEN HAD TRIED TO SHE CONFESSED THAT SHE HAD SHOT BAXTER WHEN GREG GAVLE BELIEVED THE MAID WAS LYING BECAUSE
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A good comic provides exciting action, minus objectionable scenes.





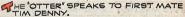






















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GUNS AGAINST GANGSTERS



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